

AIRPORT SUIT POSTPONED ON PLEA RECENT CONGRESS ACTS MAY MAKE SUIT UNNECESSARY

Through their attorney, Mrs. S. C. Gramer of the Beverly Hills law firm of Entenza and Gramer, three Lomita business men and a Torrance taxpayer, (claiming to represent the California Civil Air Patrol), requested a delay at the hearing Monday, July 28, in Superior Judge Frank Swain's court in their attempted action to block the City of Torrance from occupying and operating the former Lomita flight strip as a municipal airport.

Possibility that two Congressional acts may have killed the need for a lawsuit by the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol against the City of Torrance over future control of the Lomita flight strip was claimed by Attorney Gramer as the reason for seeking delay in the hearing. As a result, the court adjourned the case until Aug. 18.

Attorney Gramer informed the court of her belief that two acts may have passed Congress, possibly in connection with the Armed Forces unification bill. One act, according to Attorney Gramer, would place complete jurisdiction over surplus air fields in the hands of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. The second would make the Civil Air Patrol a part of the U. S. Army and give it a superior priority to the City of Torrance in acquisition of the Lomita flight strip.

However, the War Assets Administration decided the airport to the City of Torrance on Tuesday, the day following the court hearing, and observers point out that it is highly improbable that an important branch of the federal government such as WAA would have acted had there been any doubt regarding its right to transfer title to the City of Torrance.

The request for a writ of mandamus was filed July 21 in an attempt to compel the City of Torrance to withdraw its bid to the War Assets Administration for purchase of the field and all its equipment and facilities, at no cost to Torrance taxpayers.

Arguing against adjournment of the hearing, City Attorney Otto B. Willett told the court that the City of Torrance was anxious to proceed with its acquisition and operation of the airfield and would like to dispose of the law suit as soon as possible.

Judge Swain informed Willett that the court had taken no action to restrain the City of Torrance in any way. Contrary to the erroneous newspaper report printed in last week's issue of the Lomita weekly published by E. M. Mosher, one of the plaintiffs, the court did NOT "issue a writ of mandate to compel the City of Torrance to restore possession of the Lomita flight strip to the CAP; and to enjoin the City of Torrance from putting in any further bids to the War Assets Administration for the Lomita airport."

Furthermore, the court did NOT issue a restraining order against the defendants in the suit, who besides the City of Torrance include a number of disinterested citizens who were not even served with the legal papers, and of course, did not appear at the hearing Monday. The court merely ordered the defendants to show cause as to why they should not be restrained from occupying and operating the airport, pending a hearing on the issuance of a writ of mandamus.

Joining with Mosher in the suit are Norman Gardner, Lomita lumber dealer, John R. Stanton, manager of the Lomita branch of the California Bank; and M. J. B. Hughes, Torrance taxpayer, all claiming to represent the Civil Air Patrol third group.

In their petition, the plaintiffs challenged the legal right of a municipality to own and operate an airport, thereby involving such cities as Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego and numerous other municipalities throughout the state which operate airports successfully.

In his demurrer filed Monday with the Superior Court, City Attorney Willett pointed out that under the State Constitution "any municipal corporation may establish and operate public works for supplying its inhabitants with light, water, power, heat, TRANSPORTATION, telephone service or other means of communication."

Aviation today is an established method of transportation and has been so ruled, Willett stated. "We think the purpose to be served is both public and municipal. A city acts for city purposes when it builds a dock, or a bridge, or a street or a subway. Its purpose is no different when it builds an airport. Aviation is today an established method of transportation. The future, even the near future, will make it

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WAA Deeds Full Title To Airport, Valued at Over Million, To City

All doubt regarding the future ownership and operation of the long fought-over, 480-acre, Army-built Lomita Flight Strip was apparently swept away on Tuesday of this week when the War Assets Administration in Los Angeles announced it had deeded the \$1,150,000 airport to the City of Torrance. Title to the property was transferred to the municipality on July 29 and final legal papers granting full possession of the airport were dispatched on the same day, according to the Public Relations Department of WAA.



AIDED TORRANCE . . . Congressman Cecil R. King of this district, who worked hand-in-hand with Torrance in its long fight to obtain Army airstrip for City. Congressman King was of great assistance in dealing with Washington authorities.

The transfer of title to the property and its facilities was made without cost to the City of Torrance. It marks the successful culmination of a long fight on the part of the municipality and many of its citizens, among the most prominent being Reed H. Parkin, chairman, and other members of the Torrance Aviation Commission, Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr., and other members of the City Council. Congressman Cecil King worked effectively and unceasingly at Washington, D. C. in the City's behalf and rendered much valuable assistance to Parkin in working with various federal agencies.

The City has been operating the field as Torrance Municipal Airport on a right-of-entry permit, with E. Y. Tarkington as manager.

Certain buildings and grounds on the 480-acre airport tract, not needed at present for airfield operations will be assigned to the Veterans Emergency Housing, Inc. to furnish temporary housing for veterans. Eight other buildings on the airport now are in use by the City, aviators and the 578th Combat Engineers battalion of the California National Guard on permission from the City.

The deed given the City of Torrance by WAA transfers full title to the airport with the sole provision that in case of national emergency, it be returned to the Government for military use, a customary reservation in all such transfers.

The action of War Assets Administration apparently nullifies any claim that a group of three Lomita business men and one Torrance taxpayer are attempting to establish through a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court, it is pointed out by observers.



EFFORTS REWARDED . . . Reed H. Parkin, president of Torrance Chamber of Commerce and until recently chairman of Aviation Commission, whose leadership in the long battle to acquire Municipal Airport were rewarded this week.

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ASSESSED VALUATION IS DOUBLE THAT OF LAST YEAR

The assessed valuation of Redondo Union High School District is more than double what it was last year, due to the fact that Torrance became a part of the district on July 1 as a result of the election Jan. 24.

The district's assessed valuation is \$39,285,245, or more than twice last year's total of \$20,327,810.

Out of the tax receipts from this assessed valuation, however, the Redondo school trustees must operate two high schools, Torrance and Redondo Union, and Redondo gets no state school support on behalf of Torrance students this year. It goes to Los Angeles.

The figure is made up of \$57,451,205 covering secured personal property, land and public utilities, while the \$1,834,040 balance is in unsecured property.

Elementary Districts Up
Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach elementary districts also showed an increased valuation. Small, however, compared to the boost in the high school assessment.

Figures for the three elementary units and also for the new El Camino Junior College district, which came into being July 1 last, follow:

Redondo Beach elementary: Secured personal, land and public utilities, \$7,141,675; unsecured, \$586,710; total, \$7,728,385; last year, \$9,221,695.

Hermosa Beach elementary: Secured personal, land and public utilities, \$7,141,675; unsecured, \$586,710; total, \$7,728,385; last year, \$5,939,600.

Manhattan Beach elementary: Secured personal, land and public utilities, \$7,027,165; unsecured, \$306,440; total, \$7,333,605; last year, \$5,863,975.

El Camino College: Secured personal, land and public utilities, \$159,048,385; unsecured, \$11,519,020; total, \$150,567,405.

80 Percent Of Teachers Here Certified

Eighty percent of the teachers hired for Torrance City Schools in the coming year are certified personnel, Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull told the Torrance Educational Advisory Council Thursday. In a majority of districts, the number of certified teachers runs from 60 to 70 percent, he said.

A majority of the emergency teachers hired by the schools have either college A. B. degrees or from five to 10 years of experience in teaching.

Distribution of the 67 teachers will be as follows: Torrance elementary school, 22; Torrance high school, 15; Redondo and Eighth grades at Torrance high school, 15, with two half time; Perry school, nine, and Watteria school six.

Torrance Home Permits In Week Total \$206,400

The increase in home building in Torrance continued this week with the California-Nevada Properties, Inc. receiving 25 additional permits for homes to be built in their development in South Torrance at a cost of \$176,500.

The new permits brought the total of homes to be built in that sector to 64 at a total cost of \$451,600.

The new homes are to be built in the 700 and 800 blocks of Calle de Arboles and the 200 and 300 blocks of Calle de Andalucia.

Total permits issued for homes this week according to Building Department records amounted to \$206,400.

Other homes to be built in Torrance are: Helen M. Green, 169 Via Los Altos, \$12,000.

Edwin Morang, two-family residence at 1313-15 Madrid ave., \$13,000.

Harry R. Timmons, 1632 Greenwood ave., \$2,400.

Judy Kikuno, 24028 Neece ave., \$2,500.

Other permits issued by the Building Department this week were:

Louis T. Denning, 24257 Ward st., private garage, \$400.

Coy H. White, 1407 Beech ave., addition to garage, \$400.

REDONDO BEACH MAN FINED ON GAMBLING CHARGE

Leonard Doyle, 34 of Redondo Beach, was arrested last week and booked on a charge of illegal gambling.

In Torrance City court yesterday, Doyle pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor and was fined \$150 by City Judge John A. Shilder, and \$143.45 in gambling funds were confiscated by the court.

This, as in the case of the closing of the U. S. Rubber plant here, is in line with a nationwide readjustment of synthetic rubber production quotas necessitated by increasing imports of crude rubber at lower prices.

Last week at the time of the announcement of the closing of the U. S. Rubber plant, it was believed that something might be worked out whereby the other plants could be kept in operation.

Contrary to popular opinion, the Shell plant, among other RFC-owned plants which were built here during the war, cannot be sold by the government to the operators, as no legislation has been provided by Congress to cover such transactions.

According to a company spokesman, the Shell Company would like very much to purchase the Torrance plant and keep it in operation, but cannot do so under present regulations.

Shell Chemical Plant To Close; Dow and Goodyear Units Continue

Both the U. S. Rubber and Shell plants will be placed in a standby condition in readiness for any emergency which may arise.

The Goodyear Synthetic Rubber Corporation will continue to operate its unit to supply the needs of western fabricators.

Butadiene, which along with styrene is one of the ingredients used for the production of synthetic rubber, is being produced by the Standard of California plant at El Segundo and will be supplied to Goodyear by them.

The styrene will be obtained from the Dow plant here, which is the only styrene plant west of the Rockies.

Some reorganization of crews has been accomplished at the Dow plant, it was reported, due to the production cut recently, and a few employees have been laid off, but not a large number.

The Dow plant is also manufacturing some ingredients used in the production of styrene, which were formerly obtained from outside sources, it was said.

Gardena Gets Petitions To Oust Meters

Gardena's City Council has been notified that at least 564 residents and merchants, signers of a petition, want parking meters removed at the end of their six-month trial period. This period ends Aug. 3.

The petition was circulated personally by Mrs. May Murphy, 1029 Gardena Blvd., and sponsored by the Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce. It cited the fact that Los Angeles has repeatedly declined to install meters, so that the Gardena-Vermont district cannot operate on a uniform basis.

"It is also our opinion," it continued, "that the city should do everything possible to promote business rather than to adopt policies which tend to drive business into areas where there is less resistance."

Two steps are urged to solve the problem: first, immediate removal of meters after Aug. 3; and second, permitting diagonal parking "in sections where business parking is more-or-less limited," and allowing a two-hour limit, "thereby enabling the shopper to visit several stores without concern as to parking limitations."

Present in the Council meeting to support this communication were E. J. Bolton, secretary, and I. S. Schiaffer, representative of the Western Avenue Improvement association. Bolton pointed out that at a recent meeting the association voted to urge the removal of the coin devices. "The parking problem on Western avenue doesn't justify them," he said.

The Torrance appeal will be coordinated with campaigns in 34 other towns and cities involving the volunteer efforts of nearly 46,000 workers who will contact more than 450,000 citizens which yearly contribute to the humanitarian cause of the Chest.

Hartshorn pointed out that the single united appeal of the Community Chest for the support of its agencies eliminates many individual campaigns which would otherwise result.

Easleys Slightly Injured In Car Crash Near Hemet

Dr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Easley escaped with numerous scratches and bruises last week when their car collided with another between San Jacinto and Hemet.

Although knocked unconscious in the crash, Dr. Easley with his wife, was able to continue his trip to the home of his brother, L. H. Easley of Hemet. The driver of the other car was uninjured and damage to the Easley vehicle, a 1947 Studebaker, was reported as not serious.

City Budget Slated For Action Aug. 5

Action on the city budget for the year 1947-48 will be taken at a special meeting next Tuesday evening Aug. 5 at 7:30, it was announced at last evening's city council meeting.

Community Chest Fall Campaign To Be Headed Here By Sam Levy

Sam Levy, well known leader in Torrance civic affairs, has been announced as District Chairman of the Fall Community Chest campaign in Torrance by J. B. Hartshorn, Area Chairman for the Chest.

Levy will head the Torrance Red Feather appeal which is joined each year by hundreds of residents who give willingly of their time in soliciting funds for the support of the nearly 160 youth, health, veteran, family and welfare agencies which provide services to the people.

A representative group of local people appointed Levy to the post of chairman in recognition of his qualities of leadership and his interest in community welfare projects.

Members of the committee responsible for his appointment are: Mr. Charles F. Gotts, Torrance Chamber of Commerce; Mr. George L. Johnson, YMCA; Charles V. Jones, Rotary Club; Mr. B. T. Waitney, Kiwanis, and Roland M. Coll.

Hartshorn, who announced the appointment of Levy, was enthusiastic regarding the high qualities of campaign leaders volunteering for service in Torrance and other communities throughout this area.

"The success of the Red Feather campaign," he said, "depends upon the work of these men and upon the hundreds of citizens who cooperate with them in this cause."

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\$3,578 Fines Collected By Court In July

From June 1, to and including June 30, 1947, the City Court of the City of Torrance received \$3,578.29 net from fines and fees. Of this sum \$1,576.50 are general fund monies, while \$1,981.79 came from vehicle violations and thus are road fund monies. Four civil cases were were filed and fees collected were \$16.00.

General fund monies were collected from the following cases: Drunkenness, \$687.50; boulevard stop, \$243.00; parking, \$16.00 and miscellaneous criminal violations \$630.00.

Road fund monies were derived from the following cases: Drunk driving, \$648.79; speeding, \$1,076.00 and miscellaneous traffic violations, \$261.00.

Appearing below in the number of criminal and traffic cases actually handled and the disposition thereof:

Violation	Total	Guilty
Drunkenness	39	39
Drunk driving	8	7
Speeding	169	165
Boulevard stop	50	50
Parking	11	10
Misc. Traffic	100	65
Misc. Criminal	22	18
Certif. to Juvenile	8	
Totals	407	354



LEADER—Sam Levy, above, who has been announced to head the Fall Community Chest Campaign for Torrance. Levy is a leading Torrance merchant and active in civic affairs. (Torrance Herald Photo)

Registration For High School Will Start August 5

Preliminary registration for all former students of Torrance high school will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Individual appointments are being made with every student who has indicated that he or she planned on enrolling next fall and a counselor will be on hand at the high school to work out each student's future program.

Students who have not registered previously or who will be new to the high school may call Torrance 645 and an appointment can be made for assistance in working and planning the fall school program.